IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claim 32, as set forth below in the listing of all claims which are, or were, in the application:

Claims 1-22 (Canceled).

23. (Previously presented) A method of administering a biologically active agent into a human or animal body, wherein said method comprises implanting, injecting, or transmucosally attaching a delivery device, wherein said delivery device comprises a controllably dissolvable silica-xerogel produced by a sol-gel process, and wherein said silica-xerogel contains a biologically active agent, and controllably releasing said biologically active agent at a substantially constant rate by complete dissolution of said silica-xerogel over a desired time period when in contact with body fluid.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the silica-xerogel is a monolith.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the silica-xerogel is crushed from a monolith.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said biologically active agent has been incorporated into the silica-xerogel structure by mixing said agent with the starting materials for the preparation of said silica-xerogel or by adding said agent to the reaction mixture at the sol-stage of the preparation of said silica-xerogel.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said biologically active agent is a medicine, a protein, a hormone, a living cell, a bacteria, a virus, or a part thereof.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said biologically active agent is a medicine.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said medicine is toremifene or an acid addition salt thereof.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said medicine is toremifene citrate.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said silica-xerogel comprises elements selected from the group consisting of Na, Ca, P, K, Mg, Cl, Al, B, Ti, Fe, C and any combination thereof.

32. (New) A method of administering a biologically active agent into a human or animal body, wherein said method consists essentially of

implanting, injecting, or transmucosally attaching a delivery device comprising a controllably dissolvable silica-xerogel containing a biologically active agent, said silica-xerogel having been produced by a sol-gel process, and

releasing said biologically active agent at a substantially constant rate by dissolution of said silica-xerogel when in contact with body fluid.